

Utah Job Trends



Wondering what to be when you (or your children) grow up? Well, you just might want to take a look at the 2004-to-2014 occupational projections recently released by the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Demand Side Economics

First, a word of caution: These projections only provide information on the “demand” side of the labor market equation. In other words, the openings that employers are expected to “demand” by occupation. However, some occupations may have a large number of openings, but an even larger number of willing workers. Unfortunately, labor supply information is notoriously difficult to obtain.

Also, remember that openings are created in two ways. Replacement job openings are created when people leave an occupation for retirement, for a new occupation, to sail around the world, or whatever reason. New openings are also generated when companies expand or move to the area. Because employers need to replace workers leaving an occupation, even declining occupations will have some openings available.

On to the Data. . .

Since we make projections for roughly 700 occupations, but have limited space, let’s focus on major groups of occupations. We expect office and administrative support (clerical) occupations to have the largest number of total annual openings between 2004 and 2014 in Utah. Although computers have eliminated the need for many clerical workers and this group shows one of the lowest job growth rates, this occupational group is currently largest in the state. Its large initial size places administrative support occupations on top.

Other groups with large number of annual openings include sales occupations, food

preparation/serving occupations, construction/extraction occupations, and production positions.

Growing Right Along

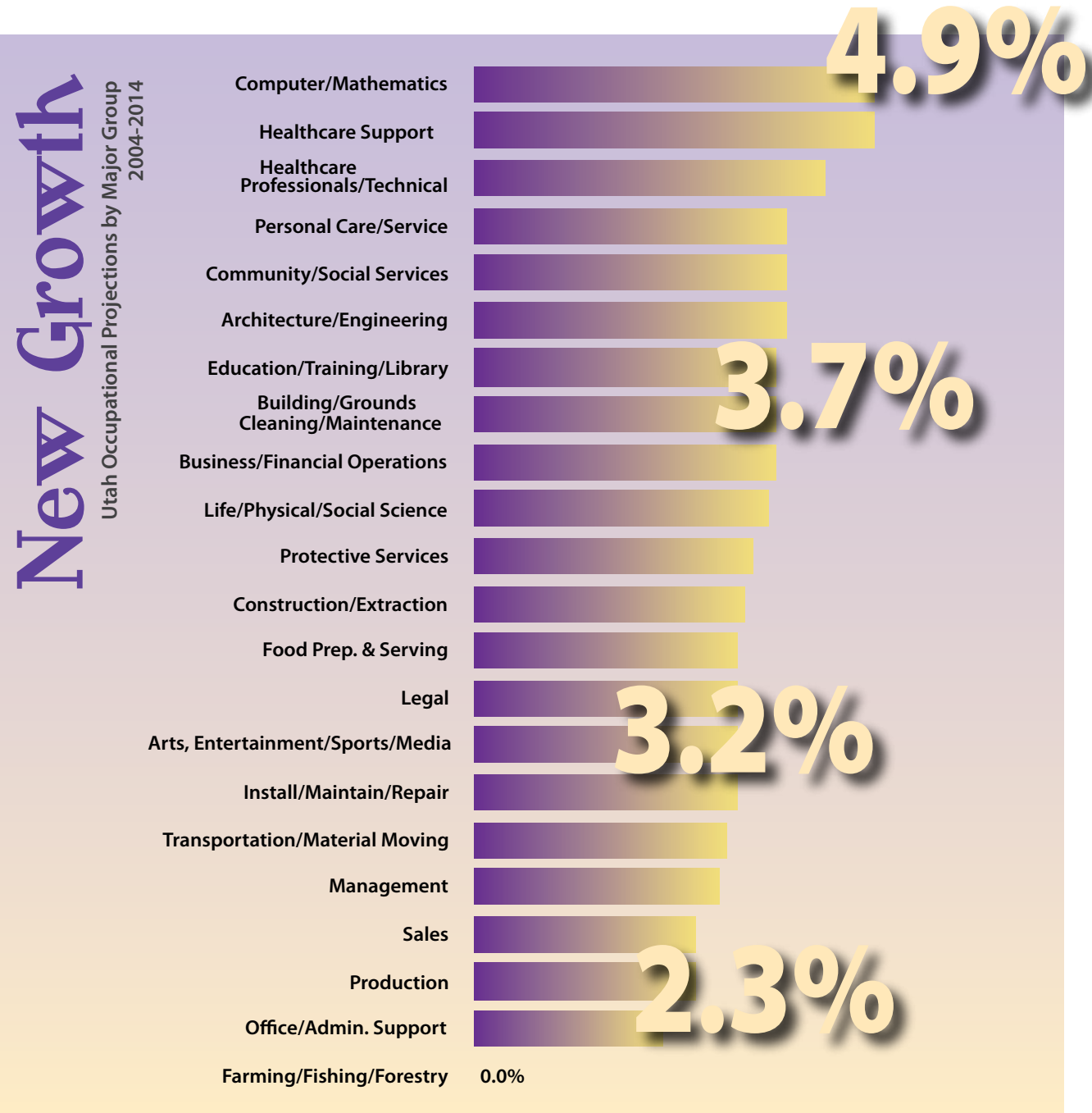
Ranking these major occupational groups by the growth rate of new positions paints a different picture. Computer/mathematics and healthcare support occupations show the highest projected annual rates of expansion—almost 5 percent compared with the average for all occupations of 3 percent. The higher-skilled healthcare professional

and technical occupations fall in close behind with a 4-percent growth rate. Obviously, filling healthcare positions will continue as a labor market priority in the years ahead.

Your Future is in the Stars

To help our users navigate what the projections mean we currently apply star ratings to occupations with at least 100 workers. The occupations with the best employment demand outlook and high wages are given a five-star rating. Occupations

Continued



with poor employment outlook and low wages are given the lowest rating. The following lists show the best of the best occupations for 2004-2014 by training category.

Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Chief executives, computer/information systems managers, computer software engineers, construction managers, financial managers, general/operations managers, lawyers, marketing managers, mechanical engineers, pharmacists, and sales managers.

More than High School, Less than Bachelor's Degree: Real estate appraisers/assessors, bus/truck/diesel mechanics, civil engineering technicians, dental hygienists, electrical/electron-

ic engineering specialists, paralegals, radiologic technologists/technicians, real estate sales agents, registered nurses, respiratory therapists.

On-the-Job Training: Food service managers, plumbers, police/sheriff's patrol officers, sales representatives, and first-line supervisors/managers of the following occupational groups: construction/extraction trades, mechanics/installers/repairers, non-retail sales workers, office/administrative support workers, and production/operating workers.

For more information on Utah's occupational projections, see [/jobs.utah.gov/wi/occi.asp](http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/occi.asp)

Annual Openings

Utah Occupational Projections by Major Group
2004-2014

